## CONDOLENCE MOTIONS REGARDING THE DEMISE OF DR. RABINDRANATH TAGORE.

**Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai:** (*Quilon cum Kunnathur*): Sir, I beg to move the following resolution for the acceptance of the House.

> "This Council places on record its deep sorrow and sense of irreparable loss on the demise of the Poet Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, one of the greatest personalities of this century."

It is not necessary for me, Sir, to put forward any arguments to commend this resolution for the acceptance of this House. Dr. Rabindranath Tagore has been one of the rare personalities of this century who was instrumental in making the name of India and Indians respected throughout the world. He was a treasure of the nation though he belonged to the whole world and has contributed to world culture. Indians feel a special pride because he was born in this country. Though he was a great philosopher he was no less a patriot. It is with the deepest sorrow and an irreparable sense of loss that the country mourns the demise of such an illustrious personality. I move the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. M. Govindan** (*Nominated*): Sir, I support the resolution. I associate myself with my honourable friend in all the sentiments he has expressed regarding the calamitous demise of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. No reference to it can be more suitable and appropriate than what Mahatma Gandhi stated on hearing of his death. In the demise of Rabindranath Tagore we have not only lost the greatest poet of the age but an ardent nationalist who is also humanitarian. There was hardly any public activity on which he has not left the impress of his powerful personality. In the Santinikethan and the Sriniketh an, he has left a legacy to the whole nation, indeed to the world. May his soul rest in peace and may those in charge of Santinikethan be worthy of the responsibilities resting on their shoulders.

When I visited Santinikethan three years ago, I wanted to see Dr. Rabindranath Tagore. I was taken to a place where he has constructed a sort of mud-walled house in a most artistic manner. I saw the Poet seated in that place. When I was introduced he said that he was very glad to meet me and gave me a message to be taken to Travancore. He said, "I consider your Sri Narayana Guru as the greatest saint of modern days. You may inform your people and all Travancore of my estimation for him." When the Poet visited Travancore, he visited the Sivagiri Mutt and he had a talk with His Holiness Sri Narayana Guru and it was that impression he gave me. I was very much touched with what he said and I felt that he was speaking from his heart. I cannot think of that great man's life without feeling touched for the great loss the country has suffered by his demise

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**Sahib Bahadur T. Mahomed Ismail**: I fully associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by the mover and the seconder of the motion. I heartily support the motion and pray 'May the Almighty God accept him.'

**Mr. K. M. Kesavan** (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): It is not only India but the whole world that bemourns the loss of one of the greatest, if not the greatest man of India. Dr. Rabindranath Tagore was an international personality with international fame and international achievements. His contribution to the world culture, particularly in the sphere of philosophy, art and poetry, is indeed considerable. The world-famed "Viswa Bharathi" is the visible expression of his thoughts and ideals. He is supposed to be not only the greatest poet of modern times but also the greatest philosopher of this century. All the works that he has produced and all the institutions that he has founded bear the stamp of the genius of this great soul. It is over the loss of such a unique person that we lament. I sincerely endorse the feelings and sentiments which were given expression to by my colleagues.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar** (*Parur, Kunnathunad and Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): I associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers.

**Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla**: I also wish to speak a word or two on this motion and join with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers. I owe him great respect not as a philosopher but as a man. I was introduced to him several years ago by Mr. C. F. Andrews with whom I was living then. When I went there, as I did on several other occasions, the first thing that impressed me was his interest in the children who were studying in his school. He told me he could not lose any time for the students who were studying in his school but he gives them a chance to see him. They went to his room one after the other, sat at his feet and then came away. He did not talk to them nor they to him. But there was a paternal relationship with the children. I wish we had that spirit in our teachers in Travancore. The second occasion I saw him was when he was speaking to his students in the *ashramom*, leading religious worship and singing songs. This scene took us to another realm. We felt that we were not living in this world but were carried to a different realm. He was a great soul, a poet; a philosopher and at the same time a man loving his children. It is such a man that we have lost. I associate myself with all the sentiments expressed by the other honourable members and wish his soul to rest in peace.

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**President**: Let me associate myself with the sentiments to which expression has been given by many members of the honourable House and from various quarters. It was my good fortune to have been personally acquainted with Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, as well-acquainted, in fact as a comparative junior like me can be said to be well-acquainted with one who was two generations older. If I were asked to say what was the distinguishing characteristic of Dr. Rabindranath Tagore I would put it as that of being comprehensively sensitive and alive. What is meant by that? As a poet he was *En rapport* with nature in all its moods and with the mind and soul of man in all moods. Nature to him was not a sealed book but was an open secret. He was born of aristocratic lineage and he never suffered want in his life but unlike many people who have that advantage, or, shall I say, disadvantage, he was able to project himself into the personalities, dreams and needs of the humbler folk so that it could be said that the life of the villager in Bengal and the life of the peasant in India vibrated in assonance to him and he vibrated in unison. That was the charm, that was the magnetic appeal of his poems written in verse or in prose. In fact it might be said that the qualities of alertness and aliveness made him really a universal literateur, a universality which was recognised and recompensed by the award of the Nobel Prize for literature. But great as were his distinctions and many and various his works and the recognitions awarded to him, the underlying fact was his essential nearness to the soil and soul of India. It might be said that of all persons who have recently enriched India he was the one who spoke most closely to Indians as an Indian but nevertheless with an impact and imprint of universality which was both singular and wonderful.

He was not only a great literateur and impassioned patriot but he was also well-versed in many sciences and arts. I have seen him acting his own play "Chitra" in his own house and I realised the perfection of his technique. He was a distinguished and daring painter. There were very few fields of human activity in which he did not make a prominent mark. He died full of years and honours and let it be given to those who live after him to catch something of his freedom from intolerance, something of his freedom from dogmatism, something of his freedom from the narrow and the parochial. These are qualities that India now specially needs.

I take it that the House approves of the motion. They will do so in the usual way standing.

The motion was passed *nem con*, all the members standing.

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